AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 has been amended to correct the reference number of the network component

from "13" to --11-- as described in the specification on page 15, line 22.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Figs. 1 and 2)

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-

25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13 and 20 have been editorially amended. The

rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to for allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §

1.84(p)(5). Figure 1 has been amended to correct the reference number of the network

component from "13" to --11-- as described in the specification on page 15, line 22. Applicant

requests withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the drawings.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as

allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 13 have subsequently been

editorially amended to correct clerical errors. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection

under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) - Emmott et al.

Claims 1, 3, 8-11, 20 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly

being anticipated by Emmott et al. (EP 0,965,938 A2; hereinafter "Emmott"). The rejection is

respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant's claimed invention relates to a portable terminal storing

and accessing secret data. A control section is connected to a signal transfer line set provided

between a storage device and a system unit. The control section validates transfer of a control

signal, transferred from the storage device to the system unit or from the system unit to the

storage device on the signal transfer line set, to permit the transfer of the secret data.

Turning to the cited art, Emmott discloses a portable communication device which

modifies a monetary amount stored in a smart card, as shown in Figures 1 and 3. A user does not

gain access to the data communications network until a match is detected of an authorized user

through a biometric recognition device (14). The biometric recognition device (14), an iris

recognition device, enables a transaction processor (20) upon detecting a match, and otherwise

shuts down the transaction processor (20) when there is no match (column 3, lines 29-33). A

smart card (23) inserted in a smart card reader (18) communicates via a data bus (30) with the

transaction processor (20) to transfer data from the smart card (23) to a RAM (31) (column 3,

lines 51-55). The data in the RAM (31) includes encrypted information which is accessed by the

transaction processor (20) and is subject to decryption by means of a decryption program stored

in a ROM (20a) (column 3, lines 55-58). The decrypted information includes financial

information stored in the smart card (23), and is displayed to the user on a screen (12) (column 4,

lines 1-5).

Applicant respectfully submits that the disclosure of Emmott does not anticipate the

claimed invention. Emmott solely enables the transaction processor (20) upon detection of an

authorized user through the recognition device (14), whereupon data may be accessed or

manipulated freely. After user validation, the transaction processor (20) of Emmott is enabled, and data is transferred non-discretionally from the smart card (23) to the RAM (31), and the data is decrypted for display on the screen (12). However, Emmott does not teach or suggest a control section validating transfer of a control signal on the data bus to permit the transfer of the encrypted information. Instead, Emmott only enables the transaction processor (20) upon user validation, after which secret data transfer is freely requested and performed. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claim 1 distinguishes over Emmott. Applicant's claims 2, 3 and 8-11 are dependent claims including all of the limitations of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Emmott. Therefore, claims 2, 3 and 8-11 are distinguished over Emmott for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 20, a control circuit operates to permit transfer of a control signal transferred from a system unit to a storage device, in response to a valid signal generated from a switch section, to permit the transfer of secret data from the storage device to the system unit. Emmott, as discussed above, only enables the transaction processor (20) upon user validation, after which secret data transfer is freely requested and performed. Emmott does not teach or suggest a control circuit operating to permit transfer of a control signal in response to a valid signal such that transfer of secret data is permitted. Emmott only enables the transaction processor (20) through biometric recognition, and does not at all disclose a control signal which is output to a storage device (e.g. smart card 23) by a system unit (e.g. transaction processor 20).

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At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claim 20 distinguishes over

Emmott. Applicant's claim 25 is a dependent claim including all of the limitations of

independent claim 20, which, as established above, distinguishes over Emmott. Therefore, claim

25 is distinguished over Emmott for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for its

additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §

102(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Emmott et al. in view of Nakamura et al.

Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 17-19, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

allegedly being unpatentable over Emmott in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Number

5,917,168, "Nakamura"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 4 and 5, which are dependent on independent claim 1, Emmott fails to

teach or suggest at least a control section validating transfer of a control signal on the data bus to

permit the transfer of the encrypted information, as discussed above. Nakamura does not remedy

the deficiencies of Emmott. Nakamura teaches a terminal for carrying out a transaction altering

a token value stored in an IC card via an on-line transaction session at a remote terminal.

Transaction messages are passed through a data link between the IC card and the remote

terminal, relying on the IC card and the remote terminal for message security (column 2, lines

23-35). Mutual authentication and initiation functions are also performed in Nakamura,

however, there is no teaching of a control section connected to a signal transfer line set and

validating transfer of a control signal transferred on the signal transfer line set, to permit the

transfer of secret data, as Applicant claims. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences,

Applicant's claims 4 and 5 distinguish over Emmott in view of Nakamura. Reconsideration and

withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 13, a control circuit of a portable terminal is connected to a signal

transfer line set and validates a control signal on the signal transfer line set output by a system

unit to a storage unit, to permit the transfer of secret data. Neither Emmott nor Nakamura teach

or suggest at least a control circuit validating a control signal on the signal transfer line set to

permit the transfer of the secret data, as discussed above. At least by virtue of the

aforementioned differences, Applicant's claim 13 distinguishes over Emmott in view of

Nakamura. Applicant's claims 14 and 17-19 are dependent claims including all of the

limitations of independent claim 13, which, as established above, distinguishes over Emmott in

view of Nakamura. Therefore, claims 14 and 17-19 are distinguished over Emmott in view of

Nakamura for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited

features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are

respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 21 and 22, which are dependent on independent claim 20, Emmott fails

to teach or suggest at least a control circuit operating to permit transfer of a control signal in

response to a valid signal such that transfer of secret data is permitted, as discussed above.

Nakamura does not remedy the deficiencies on Emmott. There is also no teaching in Nakamura

of a control circuit operating to permit transfer of a control signal from a system unit to a storage

device in response to a valid signal, such that transfer of secret data from the storage device to

the system unit is permitted, as Applicant claims. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claims 21 and 22 distinguish over Emmott in view of Nakamura. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Emmott et al. in view of Nakamura et al. and further in view of Tetro et al.

Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Emmott in view of Nakamura and further in view of Tetro et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,095,413, "Tetro"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Emmott fails to teach or suggest a control section validating transfer of a control signal to permit the transfer of secret data. Nakamura and Tetro do not remedy the deficiencies of Emmott. Nakamura discloses a terminal for carrying out a transaction altering a token value stored in an IC card via an on-line transaction session at a remote terminal, as described above. Tetro discloses the authorizing of electronic credit card transactions and measures for detecting fraudulent transactions. However, there is no mention in either Nakamura or Tetro of a control section/circuit validating transfer of a control signal to permit the transfer of secret data. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claims 6 and 7 distinguish over Emmott in view of Nakamura and further in view of Tetro. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 23 and 24, Emmott fails to teach or suggest a control circuit operating to permit transfer of a control signal to such that transfer of secret data from a storage device to a system unit is permitted. Nakamura and Tetro do not remedy the deficiencies of Emmott. Nakamura discloses a terminal for carrying out a transaction altering a token value stored in an IC card via an on-line transaction session at a remote terminal, as described above. Tetro discloses the authorizing of electronic credit card transactions and measures for detecting fraudulent transactions. However, there is no mention in either Nakamura or Tetro of a control section/circuit validating transfer of a control signal to permit the transfer of secret data. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claims 23 and 24 distinguish over Emmott in view of Nakamura and further in view of Tetro. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, Emmott in view of Nakamura fail to teach or suggest a control circuit validating a control signal on the signal transfer line set to permit the transfer of secret data, as discussed above. Tetro does not remedy the deficiencies of Emmott and Nakamura. There is no mention in Tetro of a control circuit validating a control signal on the signal transfer line set to permit the transfer of secret data, as also discussed above. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, Applicant's claims 15 and 16 distinguish over Emmott in view of Nakamura and further in view of Tetro. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Emmott et al.

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Emmott. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Emmott fails to teach or suggest at least a control section validating transfer of a control signal on the data bus to permit the transfer of the encrypted information, as recited in claim 1. Claim 12 is a dependent claim including all of the limitations of independent claim 1, which established above, distinguishes over Emmott. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Emmott of a control section validating transfer of a control signal on the data bus to permit the transfer of the encrypted information. Therefore, claim 12 is distinguished over Emmott for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for its additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/810,220
Attorney Docket No. Q63638

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

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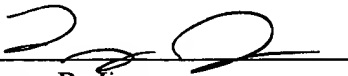
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Date: December 10, 2004